

# *Craft Carillon*

## *Craft Memorial*

### *United Methodist Church*

*FEBRUARY 2025*

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.” 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

I unintentionally tasked myself with writing the opening note for this month’s newsletter. Since I have been using Artificial Intelligence to help me with my job search. I was curious to see how the AI software I have been using would handle a Christian question. I cheated a little and asked it to write a devotion about love. This is what it produced:

“God’s love is the perfect example of enduring love.

Throughout Scripture, we see His unwavering devotion to His people despite their shortcomings and failures. His love is not conditional on our actions but is steadfast and eternal. Romans 8:38-39 reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. This truth gives us confidence and security in His unchanging love.

In our daily lives, we are called to reflect this same love. Loving others in an enduring way means standing by them in hardship, forgiving freely, and choosing patience over frustration. It is a love that remains when circumstances shift and feelings fade. It is sacrificial, selfless, and rooted in faith.

When we struggle to love others with endurance, we must turn to God, the ultimate source of love. Through prayer, Scripture, and the Holy Spirit, He strengthens us to love as He loves—completely and unconditionally.”

God is so powerful that He transcends artificial intelligence. He is everywhere. As we head into the month of love, remember that His love is always there, holding us and caring for us through our struggles.

*Sharon Tucker*

## **Birthdays**

**Barbara Nicholson February 10th**

**Triston Harden February 11th**

**Daniel James February 12th**

**Donna Riley February 14th**

**Brenda Stanford February 19th**

**Kate Massey February 26th**

**Bobby Lambert February 27th**

## **Anniversaries**

**Donna & Wayne Riley February 14th**

# Focusing on Him

## Prayer Concerns

### Sermon Scriptures

#### For February

2nd Psalm 84 Communion  
 9th Hebrews 1:1-5  
 16th Exodus 8:5-6:13-24  
 23rd Exodus 35:30-35 & 36:1-6

Kevin Goff  
 Kyle Massey  
 Michael Baugus  
 Josh Workman  
 Jacob Wammack  
 Nathan McCoy  
 Lisa Ellis  
 Carson Baker  
 Betty Baker

Roger Hayes  
 Barbra Nicholson  
 Joyce McCall  
 Elaine Cannady  
 Roberta Dawson  
 Jeff Carroll  
 Donna Riley  
 Norma Powell  
 George Horne  
 Donna Nelson

The family of Doris Davis  
 The family of Richard Wetmore  
 The family of Zach Reagan  
 Carma Gibson  
 Kim Johnson  
 Craft Day School  
 Fresh START

### WEEKLY STUDIES AT CRAFT

*Adult Sunday School 9:30*  
*Children Sunday School 9:30*  
*Youth 12:00*

*Weekly Bible Studies*  
*Tuesday 1 pm*  
*Wednesday 5:00*  
*Thursday 10:30*

**February 10th—Operations 5:30**

MONTHLY MEETINGS

**February 24th—Recognition 5:00**

**Quarterly Nativity Planning meeting 5:30**



### Blessing Box Update

Our Blessing Box storage bin is close to empty. We could use pop top canned food items, snack crackers, gloves, scarves, hats, socks, handwarmers, personal hygiene items such as shampoo, soap, hand sanitizer, baby wipes, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. If you don't have the time or ability to shop, you can always make a monetary donation and designate it for the Blessing Box.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Mark these dates on your calendar. We will be preparing goodie baskets for our homebound filled with love and other items on February 14th. On February 16th, there will be a fundraising lunch after church. Details for both events will be in a call-out and on the weekly event email next week.

# MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT



Your Ministry Team planned an active year for our church. We have some new things to add to what we've been doing. We know that everyone can't participate in and/or assist with everything that is planned. We encourage you to be present when you can be present and pray when you can't be present.

## Current Events

### DISCIPLESHIP

- Sunday school
- Weekly bible studies

### NURTURE & FELLOWSHIP

- Mother/Daughter Mother's Day lunch
- Father/Son Father's Day Lunch
- Bi-monthly fundraising lunch
- Youth Sunday with youth choir
- Choir collaborations with Riverside

### OUTREACH

- Living Nativity
- Quarterly Mission Projects
- Blessing Box
- School Supplies for Highland Park

### NURTURE & FELLOWSHIP

- Easter & Thanksgiving lunches
- Christmas Brunch
- Crafters on the Go
- Mule Day
- Christmas Cantata with Riverside
- Caroling to our members that don't get out easily
- Adult luncheons
- F.R.A.N. Sunday on Palm Sunday

## WHAT'S NEW



### OUTREACH

- Flood buckets for UMCOR
- Community carry out meals
- Meet our homeless community
- Community garden
- Craft t-shirts/sweatshirts
- More social media activity
- Monthly nursing home singing

### DISCIPLESHIP

- Community asset discovery
- Updated website
- Women's gardening club
- Discipleship as a lifestyle



Becoming More Like  
**CHRIST**  
EPHESIANS 2:10





**CONTINUED....**

## Children & Youth Ministry



- No VBS in 2025.
- Pool parties at Casa Massey June 22nd, July 20th, & August 3rd
- Summer FUN days

## Worship

- 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship night—March 30<sup>th</sup> will include, FreshSTART,



**Valentine's Day**, also called **Saint Valentine's Day** or the **Feast of Saint Valentine**, is celebrated annually on February 14. It originated as a Christian feast day honoring a martyr named Valentine, and through later folk traditions it has also become a significant cultural, religious and commercial celebration of romance and love in many regions of the world.



The 8th-century Gelasian Sacramentary recorded the celebration of the Feast of Saint Valentine on February 14. The day became associated with romantic love in the 14th and 15th centuries, when notions of courtly love flourished, apparently by association with the "lovebirds" of early spring. In 18th-century England, it grew into an occasion for couples to express their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending greeting cards

(known as "valentines"). Valentine's Day symbols that are used today include the heart-shaped outline, doves, and the figure of the winged Cupid. In the 19th century, handmade cards gave way to mass-produced greetings. In Italy, Saint Valentine's keys are given to lovers "as a romantic symbol and an invitation to unlock the giver's heart", as well as to children to ward off epilepsy (called Saint Valentine's Malady). *From Wikipedia*



## Conference and District News

### A MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

#### What If We Spent a Season Only Focused on People?

This question was proposed to me in a message from Dr. Stephen Handy, a Cohort District Superintendent for the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference. We were together in a District Meeting for clergy and laity in the Clarksville area, where we spent time getting to know one another.

We reflected on where they were as a church, how hard it had been for some in the past, and the challenges they faced in the future. I heard untold stories of how these leaders were doing great work in their communities and transformational work in their congregations. People! Such hope and joy were shared. Yet, the challenges seemed to be overwhelming for many.

I was sharing my heart for people and the numerous things that I had seen God do now, entering 46 years of ministry through the United Methodist Church. Stephen said my sharing the Holy Spirit prompted him to send me the text asking, "What if we spent a season only focused on people?"

The proverbial light bulb went off in my spirit, for that is exactly what people have been saying to me in my first 100 days of traveling to my new three annual conferences.

As I write this reflection on Christmas morning, Luke chapter two verse ten keeps resonating in my mind, "The angel reassured them, don't be afraid, I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people -The Savior - yes, the Messiah, the Lord has been born today." I have come to realize that Luke 2:10 has been inside me for a long time.

I recall 40 years ago, Dr. Wallace Chappell preaching from this scripture in an August Revival Service at Hixson United Methodist Church where I was a young church staff member. Dr. Chappell was challenging us that our calling was to continue the angel's message to proclaim the good news of great joy to all people. Dr. Bob Walker, one of my mentors, also poured into me that ministry was all about people.

Bob and Wallace have gone on to Heaven years ago, but they impressed on me as a young person, it is all about Jesus, see those who are unseen, transform lives, and change our corner of the world.

The Christmas message is about people, all people. Not just some people, but all people.

We have experienced a lot of traumas over the past five years, including a lack of resources, both people and money. What if we change our focus in the year ahead? Turning away from the "lack of" and intentionally turning toward the people God has placed in our path?

What if we spent a season only focused on people? Over 1,500 people told me this across the Central Appalachia Missionary Conference, Kentucky Conference, and the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference.

[Last] week, we celebrated Epiphany, during which we remember a star leading the Magi to visit a newborn king. People visiting a child that would change the world. What if we spent 2025 only focused on people and letting God reveal what He can do in our relationships and lives?

Bishop David Graves, Resident Bishop Kentucky-Tennessee Episcopal Area